



ITM

**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Naoto MATONO et al.

Group Art Unit: 2655

Application No.: 10/673,333

Examiner: A. HEINZ

Filed: September 30, 2003

Docket No.: 117305

For: THIN FILM MAGNETIC HEAD AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

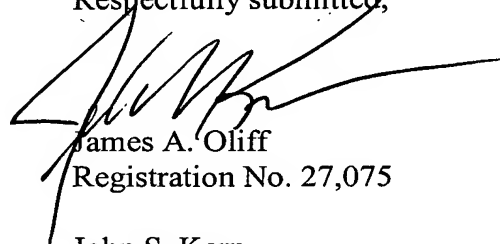
In reply to the June 15, 2005 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group II, claims 1-5, 10-15, which are drawn to a magnetic head element, classified in class 360, subclass 126, with traverse.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-22 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in

order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:JSK/kap

Date: July 14, 2005

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